

44. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said filariid p22U protein is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes, under stringent hybridization conditions, to filariid nucleic acid sequence p22U.

45. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said filariid p22U protein selectively binds to immune serum that inhibits filariid development.

46. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said antibody, when administered to an animal in an effective manner, protects said animal from infection by said filariid.

47. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said antibody is derived from immune serum from an animal immunized with a composition comprising filariid larvae selected from the group consisting of third stage larvae, fourth stage larvae, and mixtures of third stage and fourth stage larvae.

48. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said filariid is selected from a group consisting of *Dirofilaria*, *Onchocerca*, *Brugia*, *Wuchereria*, *Loa*, *Acanthocheilonema*, *Setaria*, *Parafilaria*, and *Stephanofilaria* filarial nematodes.

49. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said filariid is *Dirofilaria immitis*.

50. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said antibody selectively binds to a p22U protein encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3, a nucleic acid sequence containing at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:3 and a fragment of SEQ ID NO:3.

51. (New) The antibody of Claim 43, wherein said antibody selectively binds to a p22U protein comprising at least a portion of amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:4.

52. (New) A therapeutic composition that protects an animal from filariid infection, said composition comprising an isolated antibody of Claim 43.